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The Marker Lamp

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National Model Railroad Association

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The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Speed Muller gertmul@gmail.com

Cover photo
Aligning a lift-out bridge on the Austin Model Railway Society layout by Riley Triggs

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President's Message

by Chuck Lind, MMR
Chucklind46@gmail.com

You will notice you are receiving two Marker Lamps almost back to back. Rilley got a little behind while helping to plan and put on a great convention in Round Rock with Peter. With this issue we should be back on track.

As you know from the email Jeff sent out I lost my son just after is 46th birthday. This has been a very difficult week for our family and I want to thank everyone for the support we have received. You hear about the fellowship of Model Railroaders, but I can tell you it is real. At the viewing and the funeral, I looked out and saw the fellowship in action. It seemed everywhere we looked there was a model railroader, this hobby is more than trains it is the wonderful people. Thanks again for all the hugs, cards and gifts that Laurie and I have received.

I was up in Dallas for the planning meeting for the 2019 LSR Convention and they have some wonderful things planned. Will the convention be different, yes we have to make changes to the convention in order for them to survive. We have learned that folks are just not traveling to conventions like they have in the past. While we don't know if it is from age, cost, or some other reason the Board realized we needed to make changes. Donna and her committee have a great convention planned and you will see more details on their website. What will remain the same is the clinics, contest room and the fellowship. The committee will be sending out a survey to all the LSR members asking what type of clinics you would like to have at the convention, please take the time to fill it out so we can give you clinics that are relevant to what you are needing.

I will be traveling to the National Narrow-Gauge Convention as you read this. I am looking forward to this convention more than you know. It will be a place to learn but also a place to be with the great fellowship of Model Railroaders.

Club Running

by Riley Triggs
rileytriggs@gmail.com
ponyrr.blogspot.com
modelrailroaddesign.blogspot.com

Thomas Marty, John Ames, John Hanne, Sam Nicastro, George Zapalac, and Steve Jackobs preparing to run some trains.

The 100% NMRA membership club, the Austin Model Railway Society (AMRS), is meeting monthly to hold operating sessions and business meetings. Various locations including a north Austin church, a full size gym and a community non-profit are all utilized for weekend set up depending on availability. Meetings will be more consistently held at the Lifeworks center in central east Austin in the coming year.

Almost 30 modules are now in operation on the AMRS traveling layout, and more are planned for this coming year to fill out a phased approach to building. Public showings and youth engagement are priorities for the club as well as holding the monthly operating sessions.

The layout is based on the Austin area with modules representing Austin, Taylor, Round Rock, and McNeil Crossing. The era is flexible at the moment, with Missouri Pacific, Southern Pacific, and Missouri, Kansas and Texas trains finding their way into downtown Austin from the east and the west.

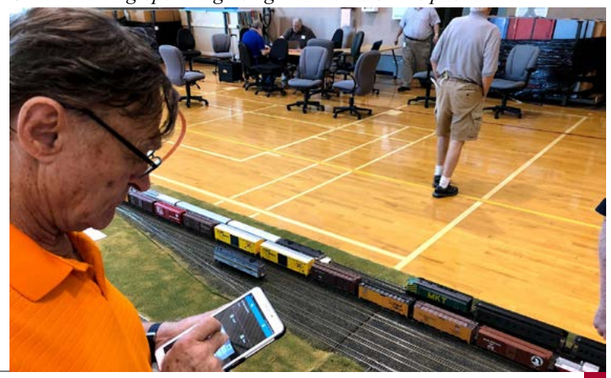
The goal is to find permanent quarters for a very prototype Austin area layout. Membership is open to NMRA members of any age, so give me a shout if you are interested in joining a good bunch of guys share all things railroading.

Riley

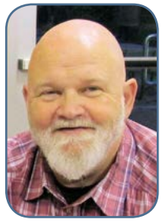
Tim Giraud tells John Ames (above left) about the prototype Aransas Cotton Company compress (above) he scratch built for the Taylor, Tx module.

Setting up in a gym

Chuck Marling operating using WiThrottle on his phone



Up the Tracks Events Calendar



By Bill Dryden
NMRA & LSR Life Member

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

Lone Star Region 68th Annual Convention (2019)
Arriving Soon, The New Texas Special-2019 Lone Star Regional Convention
June 27-29, 2018; Drury Inn & Suites Dallas Frisco
More information athttp://www.2019texasspecial.com/ or http://www.lonestarregion.com/
Come all!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 2 -– Metairie, LA
LSR Division 2 meets on Mondays between July 30th to October 1st at the Crescent City Model Railroad Club, 601 N. Lester Ave in Metairie, LA 70003 at 6:30 PM for Modular Monday. We will continue building our modular layout by building benchwork, designing the track, laying the roadbed and track, wiring, planning scenery, installing the scenery and basically building a modular project railroad and teaching all the steps along the way so that we can get the layout operating in time for an event in October. We will also use the layout for the Ponchatoula Train Shows. This will officially be a Lone Star Region, Division 2 project, so no club affiliation is necessary except for being an NMRA member. If you are interested, please come out to participate and help. The more modules we can build the larger the layout can be. For more information contact Ken Mason at series9parts@cox.net.

LSR Division 3 - Trinity River Division – Allen
The Trinity River Division meets on the Third Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Donna Orr at donnalorrtx@gmail.com.

LSR Division 4 – Cen-Tex Division – Austin
The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the Second Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see http://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR Division 8 - Texas Gulf Division – Houston
The Texas Gulf Division presents hands-on-clinics every second Saturday of each month at the Bayland Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. The clinic times are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All are welcome. To be added to the Division 8 mailing list contact Jim Lemmond at jimlem@comcast.net. The Division 8 web site is http://texasgulfdivision.org/

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin
The Austin Model Railway Society is an HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Riley Triggs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White – rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum
Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street, in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot; New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Plano
The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and for regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to check on our progress in setting up operations. Located in Colin Creek Mall, Plano, TX, outside JC Penney's on the lower level. For more information: www.modelrailroadclub.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills
The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmrc.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

November

3rd Louisiana TCA Chapter Train Show; Lone Star Division. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. General $5, Kids under 12 Free. First Baptist Church Gymnasium, 325 Pine Street, Ponchatoula, LA. More information: George Kosanovich (504) 782-7622 or e-mail gkosanovich1@gmail.com.

24th Crescent City Model Railroad Club Open House. Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children 6-12 $3, 5 and under Free. 601 N Lester Ave, Metairie, LA. More information: http://www.ccmrc.com.

November - December

Nov. 23rd – 25th, 30th; Dec. 1st – 2nd, 7th – 9th 7th Annual Holiday Toy Trains at the Depot. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sun. 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission Free. Nacogdoches Train Depot, 101 Old Tyler Road, Nacogdoches, TX.

Nov. 23rd – Dec. 23rd North Pole Express. (Sponsored by Grapevine Vintage Railroad Special Events). Tickets and Information (817) 410-3185. 705 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX. More information: www.gvrr.com.

December

1st – 23rd (2nd Opening day) Christmas at the Museum. (Sponsored by the Gregg County Historical Museum). Tue. – Fri. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Adults $5, Seniors $2, Kids under 18 $1, Museum Members Free. 214 N. Fredonia Street, Longview, TX. More information: http://www.ccmrc.com.

Dec. 23rd – 30th After Christmas Trains. (Sponsored by Grapevine Vintage Railroad Special Events). Tickets and Information (817) 410-3185. 705 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX. More information: www.gvrr.com.

January 2019

5th Crescent City Model Railroad Club Open House. Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children 6-12 $3, 5 and under Free. 601 N Lester Ave, Metairie, LA. More information: (903) 753-5840 or www.gregghistorical.org.

19th – 20th Dallas Area Annual Winter Train Show. (Sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adult $10, Kids under 12 w/ Adult Free, Scouts & Scout Leaders in uniform Free. Plano Civic Centre, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. More information: www.dfttrainshows.com.

February 2019

16th Greater Houston Train Show. (Sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults $6, Children 12 to 18 $1, Under 12 Free. Stafford Center, 10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX. More information at http://sanjacmodeltrains.org/.

16th – 17th Great Texas Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adult $7, Kids 11 and under Free. Premier Events Center, Lakeland Plaza, 1165 S Stemmons Freewway, Lewisville, TX. More information: http://trainshow.com/greattexastrainshow/.

March 2019

16th – 17th Cotton Belt Historical Society, Tyler TAP Chapter Annual Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Kids under 12 Free. Tyler Rose Garden Center, 420 Rose Park Drive, Tyler, TX. For more information: Steven Garbarino (903) 388-5354, or www.cottonbeltdepotmuseum.com.

April 2019

13th – 14th New Braunfels Annual Spring Jamboree & Train Show. (Sponsored by New Braunfels Railroad Museum). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Kids 5 to 17 $2 Kids under 5 Free. Scouts & Scout Leaders in uniform Free. New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/trainshow.

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

BNSF 1680 at the Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum in Temple, Tx. photo by Riley Triggs

WHO'S TRACK GOES THERE?

You tell me who's layout this big photo is from, and I give the first person to email me the correct answer at rrrduino@huntatrophy.com a campfire lighting Arduino next time we meet up!

Of course, the usual fine print applies: Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of food borne illness, especially if you have a medical condition.

2019 SER Convention Chattanooga, TN

2019 SER Convention
Chattanooga, TN
Thursday through Sunday
May 30, 2019 - June 2, 2019

Convention Website

The Choo Choo City Rails SER Convention will be held May 30- June 2, 2019. Chattanooga is rich in railroad history. From the Great Locomotive Chase of the Civil War to Glenn Miller's "Chattanooga Choo Choo," railroads have played an important part in its development.

Great clinics are planned with Pelle Søeborg (banquet speaker), Cody Grivno, Stephen Priest, Matt Herman, Lance Mindheim, the owners of ScaleTrains.com, and many others.

Plans are ongoing with several of Chattanooga's major industries for prototype tours including Portland Cement, the TVRM Backshop, VW Auto Loading Terminal, ADM's trans-load facility, Astec Industries, and JIT Steel Services. There will also be home layout tours and operating sessions to choose from.

Thursday, prior to the convention, ScaleTrains.com is sponsoring a trip on the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum's Hiwassee River Rail Excursion. and a catered BBQ lunch at their Benton, TN headquarters. Join Pelle, Cody, Stephen, Matt, Lance and the ScaleTrains.com crew for a great train ride. For more information, pricing, and to register for this event, click here. The Sunday following the convention, join ScaleTrains.com in Dalton, GA at the NS/CSX diamond next to the freight station.

There are world famous attractions such as Rock City, Ruby Falls and the Incline Railway. Ride the trains at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum or view the sights atop Lookout Mountain; the Tennessee Aquarium; ride the Southern Belle Riverboat. Bring the family, come early, stay late and enjoy all that Scenic City has to offer.

- Thursday May 30, ScaleTrains.com will be sponsoring the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum Hiwassee River Rail Excursion with a catered BBQ lunch. Click here for more information.
- Thursday May 30, registration is from 5 PM until 9 PM, operating session.
- Friday May 31, Clinics, operation Sessions, home layout tours, and Prototype/Industrial Tours.
- Saturday June 1, Clinics, home layout tours, Eagle Point Live Steam tour, Tennessee Railroad Museum rides backshop tour, and banquet.
- Sunday, June 2, Home Layout tours, operating sessions, and railfanning at the NS/CSX diamond in Dalton, GA.

Wanted!

Nominees for the LSR 2019 Youth Award

Who:

Any boy or girl 18 years old or younger with an interest in model railroading.

Where:

One nominee from each LSR Division.

How:

Fill out the special Youth Award Membership Form available on http://www.lonestarregion.com/

When:

Submitted to your Division Board Member by December 21, 2018.

For more information contact: Jim Lemmond, Youth Chairman: jimlem@comcast.net

Wanted!

Nominees for the LSR 2019 Youth Award

We are fast approaching the time to submit nominations for LSR Youth Awards. Each Division may submit one nomination for this award. The qualifications are as follows:

1. Be a student. Anyone under the age of 18 qualifies if they are not already an NMRA member. The NMRA has also made arrangements to allow college students under the age of 25 to qualify as a STUDENT. They must have a CURRENT student ID to the school they are attending – include a photocopy of the ID.

2. Be sponsored by a current NMRA member. The Division Director must approve of nominee.

3. Be presented by the Division Director at the Annual BOD meeting – one sponsorship per year.

4. BOD Approval

Important dates:
December 21, 2018 – LSR Youth Nomination form and student biography emailed or sent to Jim Lemmond jimlem@comcast.net or 2821 Frostwood Circle, Dickinson, Texas 77539. I will then send all nominations to the LSR Secretary, Jeff Palmer by January 6, 2019. All nominations will be submitted to the LSR Board of Directors for approval at the mid-year Board meeting in January 2019. All approved nominees will be invited to attend the LSR June Convention banquet to receive their award.

The information and forms for this award may be downloaded from the LSR web site: http://www.lonestarregion.com/node/49

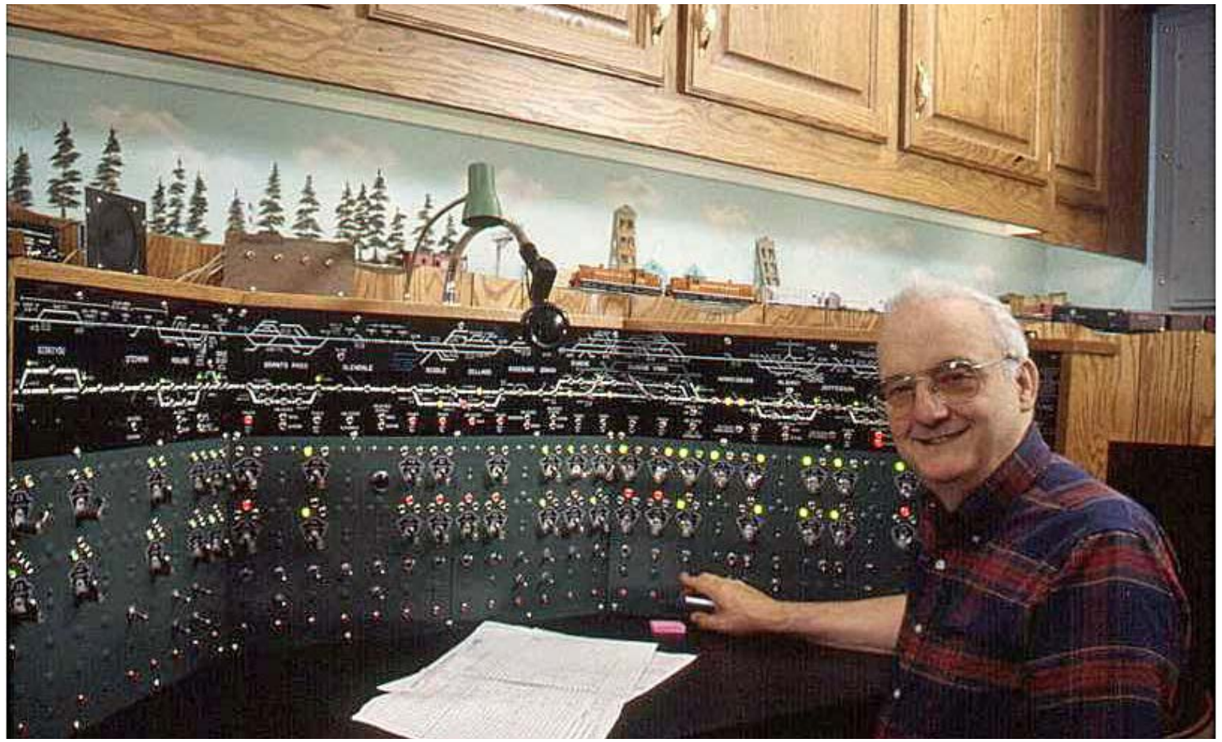
Our goal is to have a Youth Award from each Division of the LSR.

Bruce Chubb

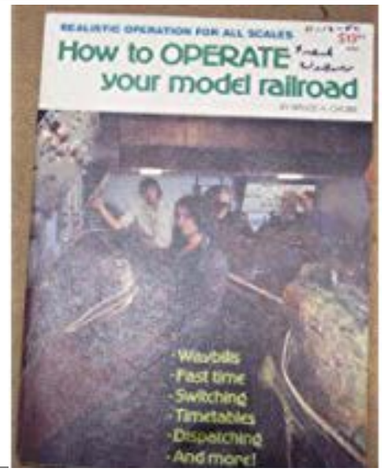
By Richard Kamm

SUE LINE

"How to Operate Your Model Railroad….. Weekly"



Bruce and Janet Chubb



This time I want to discuss a "giant" who literally needs no introduction. Dr. Bruce Chubb, who, along with his elegant wife, Janet, live in Grand Rapids, Michigan and have the world famous Sunset Valley Oregon System model railroad. Bruce developed and produces the Computer Model Railroad Interface C/MRI used by numerous modelers. He is also the author of the book "How to Operate Your Model Railroad'. It was this book that first stimulated me to enter to world of "operation" and leave the world of "running trains."

There were so many concepts in his book that encouraged me to move forward with what has become a very elaborate operating system on the Sue Line. We operate with a few as four operators to as many as 15 operators. The gives us a great deal of flexibility in how we operate the Sue Line.

Every Thursday evening (Except Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years) the group assembles for an operating session. Each member places his name on the call board as to where they want to operate (e.g. Maryville Operator, Sue City Operator, Shreveport Public Belt Operator, Riverfront Yard Master, Ginnings Yard Master, Union Street Yard Master, Sue Line Mainline engineer or NoLaCRA engineer).

Each position requires specific skills and has different challenges. This allows the crew members to have as little or as a great a challenge they desire that evening. The flexible staffing model introduces changes into the sessions each week.

I was fortunate enough to visit the previous version of the Sunset Valley railroad and given a chance to dispatch. It was only afterwards that I learned that Dr. Bruce Chubb audiotapes each operation session so that later he can review what occurred during the session.

That railroad was packed into the basement of Bruce and Janet Chubb's home and even ran through the bathroom! It was an amazing experience to see the operations of the Sunset Valley unfold. At one point, one of Bruce Chubb's daughters was running a coal drag and came up to a red signal. She reported to the dispatcher (me) that she usually received a green signal at that location. I replied not tonight to the delight of Bruce Chubb. Sadly, that railroad no longer exists, but a new, larger, and more complex railroad has taken its place. A truly marvelous accomplishment by a truly marvelous gentleman.

Not only is Bruce Chubb a master in the field of operations, he is also a master in the field of electronics. C/MRI (Computer/Model Railroad Interface) is a set of electronic modules that allow a computer to monitor and control real world devices, including those used in conjunction with model railroads. C/MRI was first introduced by Dr. Bruce Chubb in the February 1985 issue of the Model Railroader magazine. It appeared again with a four-part series starting with the January 2004 issue titled "Signaling Made Easier." This series provides a good, concise introduction to the C/MRI and its application to signaling.

The backbone of the Sue Line is operations. Everything else is window dressing. We could have operating sessions without scenery, without CTC, without electrically thrown turnouts and yes, even without DCC. It is the combination of prototypical operating practices combined with the concept that our scheme does not have to remain static that keeps the Sue Line fresh. Thanks to Bruce Chubb for inspiring myself and countless others to operate so as not to stagnate in the hobby.

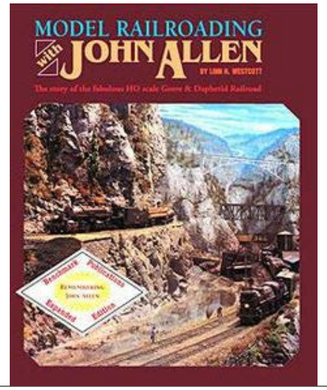
In fact, the Sue Line stands on the shoulders of this giant with a few chapters added to the legendary book: "How to Operate Your Model Railroad…..Weekly". ML

John Allen

By Richard Kamm

SUE LINE

John Allen



How do you introduce a "giant" who needs no introduction? The late John Allen, the "Wizard of Monterey", who had the magnificent Gorre & Daphetid model railroad. His influence is seen throughout model railroading, but specifically in a small forgotten corner of the Sue Line world in the town of Jeauxville.

John Allen began construction of the first version of the Gorre & Daphetid (G&D) model railroad in HO scale in 1953. As with most modelers, he needed more space, and he chose to move. In so doing, he offered a railroad for sale with a free house included. That sense of humor would perservere throughout his modeling career. When no one was interested in buying the house with the railroad, John Allen dismantled it. The original 3.5 ft by 6.5 ft Gorre &Daphetid was saved and incorporated into the final version, while other parts were given to friends.

"He had the artistic talent and skills to create and document incredibly realistic scenes..."

He later moved to his final house which was chosen for its unfinished basement. He dug out the basement, added a concrete floor, and prepared it for construction of his now well known masterpiece. He allocated about half the 1,200 sq ft to the layout, the remainder for a workshop and storage. Construction began in January 1954. He constructed the layout almost completely by himself and devoted the next 20 years to this project.

During this period John Allen revolutionized model railroading with realistic operations, lighting (including night lighting), and weathering of models. He used forced perspective to enhance the illusion of realism, and only allowed photography under his conditions, in part, due to his background in photography.

He had the artistic talent and skills to create and document incredibly realistic scenes that have appeared in numerous articles in the model railroad press. He had a wonderful story of origin for the G&D, including humor and numerous references to his friends in the model railroading and model railroading publishing industry. The final layout is considered one of the greatest layouts of all time, and has several fan websites and a devoted Yahoo discussion groups.

John Allen suffered a fatal heart attack on the evening of January 6, 1973. Although he was not feeling well, he worked at completing the Gorre & Daphetid. In conversation with Linn Westcott, John Allen suggested that he would be driving the last spike in the spring of 1973, and that Linn Westcott should come for a visit then. In 1972, he was already suggesting that things might not be going well, and wondering "what to do with the railroad" in letters to a friend.

Ten days after he died, some of John Allen's friends gathered for an operating session and discussion on the preservation of the railroad in accordance with John Allen's wishes. When they left, someone set a furnace in the train room to 65 °F. He never used the furnace and had covered it with tar paper. This caused a fire, which was quickly reported and extinguished fast enough to save the house, but it destroyed the final, still-unfinished incarnation of the G&D.

Andrew Allen (John Allen's brother) asked Linn Westcott to investigate if the layout could be salvaged. The fire had caused extensive damage. They tried to save the "French Gulch" section, but it collapsed as they moved it after two hours of work. A few model railroad items attributed to Allen survive and have been authenticated.

Beyond the G&D, he had developed a simple, easily portable "game/display" which he called the time saver. It was a compact switching module which offered a challenge to operators depending on how many cars were used. I cannot recall the number of hours I have spent enjoying the Sue Line's version of the timesaver.

On a personal note, my grandfather Al G Kamm was an O-scaler in Hartford, Connecticut, who had a good friend named Watson "Watty" House. Later, Watson House moved to Monterrey, California and met up with a photographer who also "played with trains". John Allen built a hotel structure in one corner of his layout which he named Watson House. With some of the leftover castings, John Allen built a structure which he gave to his good friend Wit Towers. Witt Towers later gave this structure to the late Cliff Robinson in Dallas Texas. When Cliff Robinson died, he left me that structure.

In true John Allen fashion, we did the unthinkable and tore into the model to bring it to life with lights on its perch at the end of a pier. The wizard of model railroading of the last century lives on as a structure in the swampy bottoms at the end of a pier in Jeauxville. From there, they workers have a great place to watch the trains go by and gaze into the water to see the reflection of a giant still working his magic in 2017. ML

Timesaver switching puzzle

Larry Keeler

By Richard Kamm

SUE LINE

"Larry showed me that making things better for others was a real gift for the hobby."

This time I want to discuss a "giant" who very few of you may know or have heard of, the late Larry Keeler.

He spent his early years in a log cabin which his father built in northern Wisconsin. By 16, he had earned his private pilot's license and would later spend eight years as a fireman and engineer on the Milwaukee Road.

Later, Larry moved to Dallas, Texas where he worked as an industrial x-ray technician. While eating lunch one fall day in Shreveport, Louisiana, Larry Keeler met a young lady by the name of Patsy Braswell. They married and remained so for 56 years.

In 1964 Larry Keeler moved to Kansas City where he worked for Greb X-ray company for nearly 30 years, returning to his love for flying as a corporate pilot for them for 27 years. In 1995, he left aviation and returned to railroading for the Dakota, Minnesota, and Eastern Railroad. Larry Keeler loved working for the railroad and was a conductor and engineer for six years. On his retirement, at age 72, Larry Keeler was given a scale railroad car with his name and company number on it. Larry Keeler always thought he was the luckiest of men as he indulged himself in two careers: planes and trains.

After retirement, he returned to Overland Park, Kansas where his home was filled with an elaborate model railroad which he had designed and built. It was a frequent gathering place for local model railroaders and attracted visitors from around the country.

One of the many inventions of Larry Keeler was a model railroad command control system which he named CTC80. Larry Keeler designed the circuit boards and sold the systems across the country as Keeler Rail Supply. This was before any of the commercial command control systems were available.

Another fascinating invention of Larry Keeler was his HO scale layout which had an operating hump yard with air jet retarders which slowed the cars that were set free at the top of the hump. Each car landed exactly where it should. It was fascinating and I recall spending hours watching the hump yard in action.

One of the many inventions of Larry Keeler was a model railroad command control system which he named CTC80. Larry Keeler designed the circuit boards and sold the systems across the country as Keeler Rail Supply. This was before any of the commercial command control systems were available.

Larry Keeler was awarded Master Model Railroader 137 in March 1988. I recall that I had many happy discussions with Larry Keeler about how to operate and control my model railroad. I also recall having had the honor of reviewing the CTC80 system by Keeler Rail Specialties in Model Railroader in the March 1988 edition.

With his exposure to piloting skills, train handling prowess and attention to detail with his work and electronics, Larry showed me that making things better for others was a real gift for the hobby. At the Sue Line, we try to make things better for others. As operations tend not to be a spectator sport, I have utilized his approach of always trying to make things better for the operator.

The control system, placement of toggle switches, clearly marked labels and maps, to straightforward paperwork are all integral parts for creating successful weekly operating sessions on the Sue Line. Those are all details that must be tended to that have nothing to do with the above rail appearance of the railroad but have everything to do with getting us through an enjoyable journey for 3 hours each week.

There are many people out there that have done great things in the hobby whose name will be lost to the passage of time and lack of "fame". Their contributions are no less important. But, as I recall, Larry Keeler would far rather you benefit today with fun on your railroad with better controls and improved operations than he would want notoriety for himself. Command control is one of those legacies he helped put in place. How is that benefitting you today?

So you are also standing on the shoulders of one of these more quiet giants in the world of model railroading. Thank you, Larry. ML

Convention Contest Winners: The People

All photos by Riley Triggs

Contest winners from the Austin Eagle LSR 2018 Convention

Convention Contest Winners: The Entries

All photos by Dave Lamberts

Contest winners from the Austin Eagle LSR 2018 Convention

BEST IN SHOW

Pete Leach
Lumber Schooner Dorothy Glinn

NOVICE BEST IN SHOW

Marc LaChey
St. Thomas Church

MOST POPULAR MODEL

Barry Bogs
G Scale Krauss Moffet Diesel Engine

MOST POPULAR COMPLETE TRAIN

Leo Palitti
Log Train

MOST POPULAR ARTS & CRAFTS

Maureen Mason

New Orleans Sampler

ARTS & CRAFTS BEST IN SHOW

Maureen Mason

New Orleans Sampler

YOUTH & TEEN AWARD

Nathan Lind
Timber Trestle

TREE AWARD

Chuck Lind
Speeder Shed

ARCHITECTURE AWARD

Marc LaChey
St. Thomas Church

BEST KIT-BUILT MODEL

Rod Fredericks
Smelter Office

PARTICIPATION

Blake Bogs

4 entries – total score 433 points

ARTS & CRAFTS NEEDLEWORK

Maureen Mason

New Orleans Sampler

ARTS & CRAFTS GENERAL

Judith Neufeld
Angel Garden

ARTS & CRAFTS GENERAL

Judith Neufeld
Neptune's Garden

STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

Pete Leach
WW&F Loco #4

Chuck Lind
Heisler #35

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES

1

Barry Bogs
G Krause Maffei

2

Steve Jackobs
112 Ton Davenport

3

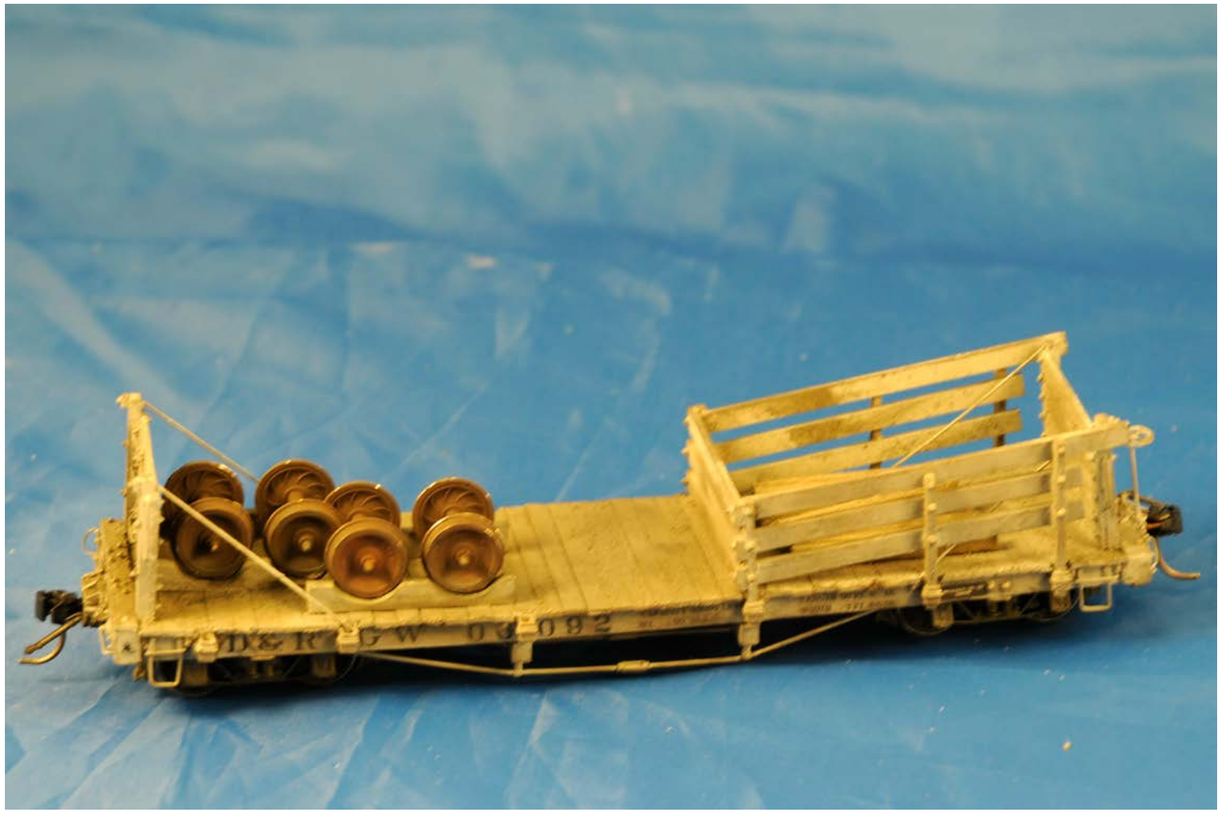
John Garfield
(TIE) RS-3 and GP-35

TRACTION & OTHER MOTIVE POWER

Leo Palitti
Lombard Log Hauler

John Garfield
Rail Car

FREIGHT CARS



1

Blake Bogs
DRGW 6000 Flat Car #6012

2

Lorrie Palitti
Short Wood Slab Car

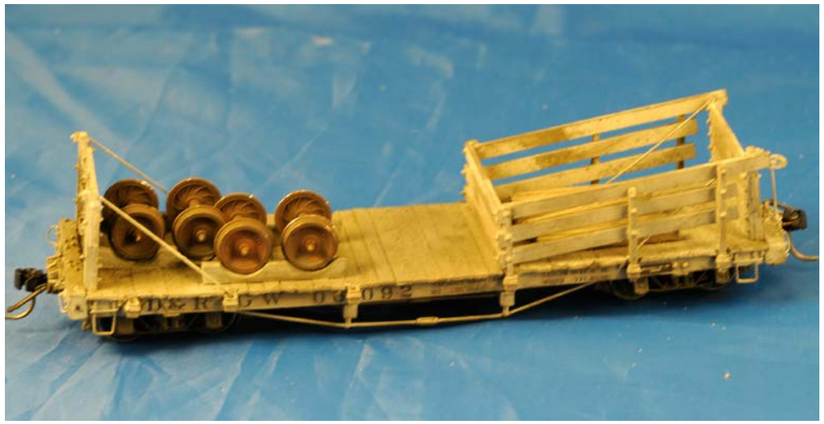
3

Ken Mason
ATSF BX3 Boxcar

MAINTENANCE OF WAY

Duane Richardson
Alamosa Trash Gon

Blake Bogs
(3 way tie) 2 Rail & Tie Cars, 1 Wheel Car

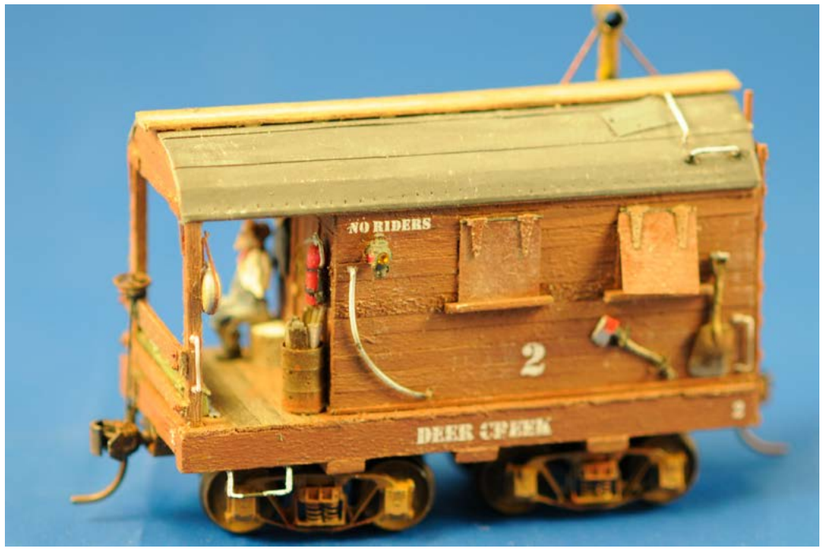


Ken Mason
ATSF BX3 Boxcar

CABOOSES

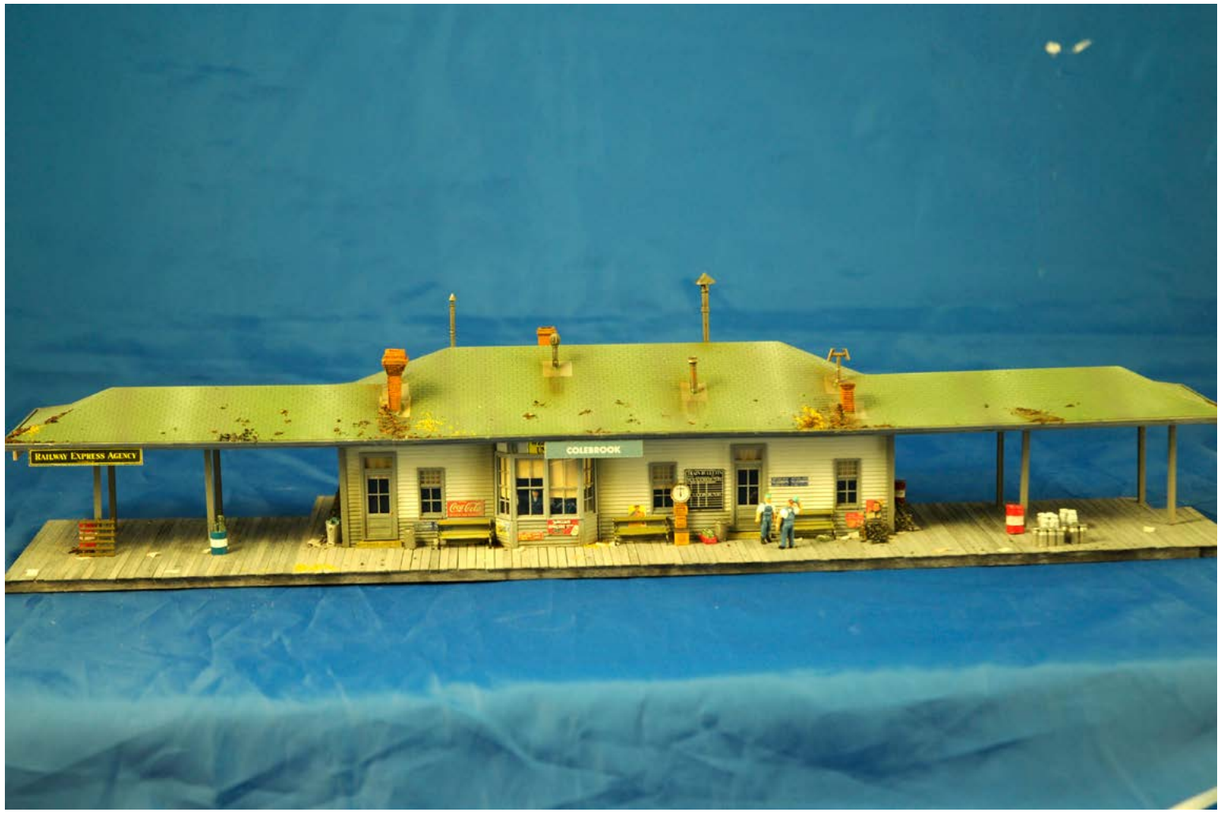
Cody Akin
RGS 0401 Caboose

Duane Richardson
DRGW Caboose #0503



Lorrie Palitti
Logging Caboose

ON-LINE STRUCTURES



William Huebner
Colebrook Station

Casey Akin
Cumbres Section House

Dave Lambert
Milk Stop

OFF-LINE STRUCTURES

Rod Fredericks
Smelter Office & Sample Bldg

Marc Lachey
St. Thomas Church

Pete Leach
Lumber Schooner Dorothy Glynn

BRIDGES & TRESTLES

Dick Bannan
Curved Trestle

Nelson Cain
ATSF Open Deck Timber Trestle

Nathan Lind
Timber Trestle

DISPLAYS & MODULES

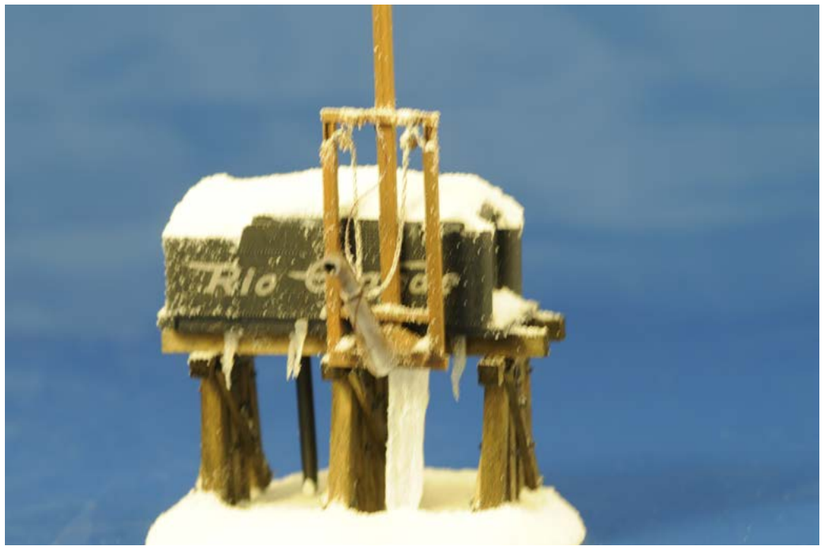
Chuck Lind
O Scale Motor Car Shed

Marc LaChey
Boxcar Storage Shed

John Garfield
T. P. Lemay Coal Co.

SPECIAL CONTEST
PEANUT BUTTER LID

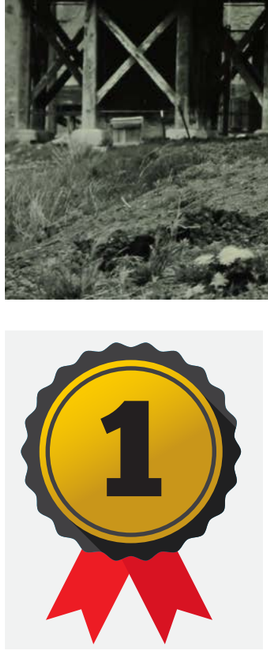
Kim Saign
Soo Line Interlock



Duane Richardson
Frozen Water Tank

Michael Carter
Little Blue Dock House

PROTOTYPE PHOTOGRAPHS
BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS



Blake Bogs
Steaming Round the Bend

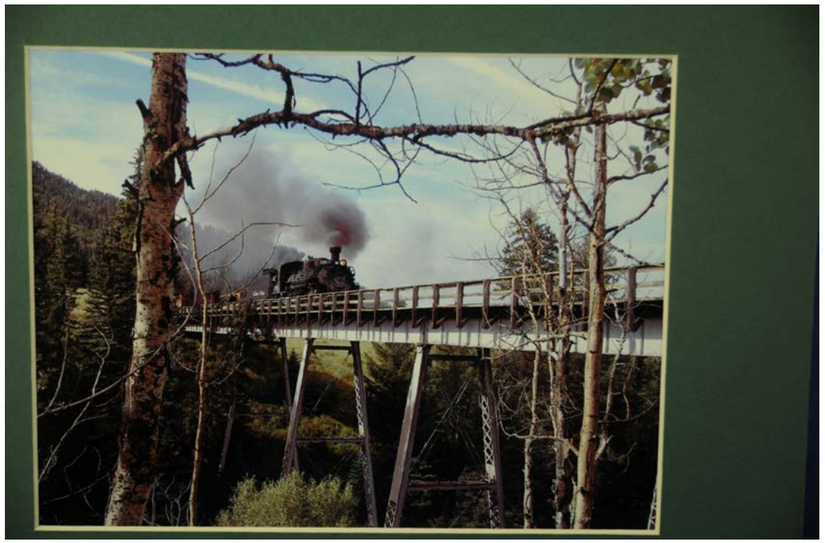
Blake Bogs
Around the Bend With 315

Blake Bogs
Memories At Lab A

PROTOTYPE PHOTOGRAPHS
COLOR PRINTS

Nelson Caine
Osier Lunch Stop

Nelson Caine
489 at Osier



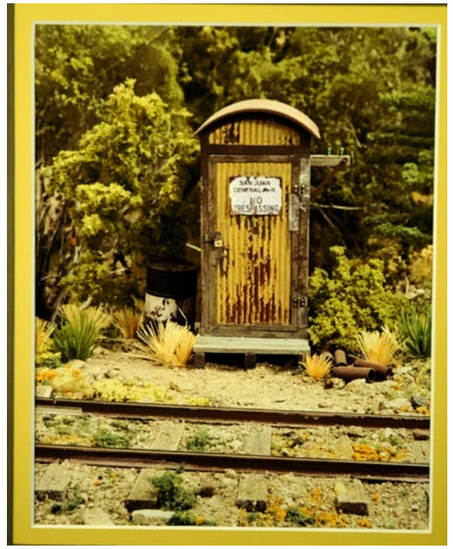
Chuck Lind
Crossing Labato

MODEL PHOTOGRAPHS
BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS

Chuck Lind
Afternoon at Engine House

MODEL PHOTOGRAPHS
COLOR PRINTS

Lori Flom
Ode to Happy Speeder



Lori Flom
Oneringeedee

COMPUTER ENHANCED PHOTOGRAPHS

Blake Bogs
Looking at Memories Steaming By

Judith Neufeld
The Last Inspection

PHOTOGRAPHY BEST IN SHOW

Nelson Cain
Osier Lunch Stop

S PECIAL CONTEST!

2019 THE NEW TEXAS SPECIAL
LSR CONVENTION, FRISCO, TX
JUNE 27-29, 2019

BACK FROM THE DEAD!
THE SECOND LIFE OF A CABOOSE!

Here are the rules: Start with any caboose; plastic, wood, metal; ready-to-run, shake-the-box, craftsman kit, scratchbuilt; any prototype you like. Only limitation – it must have once existed ***AS A CABOOSE!***

Now build it into anything you want – other than a caboose! This is the ultimate kitbash. You may add other materials as required, but it must be obvious that your entry once was a caboose. Example – building a shed from stripwood and claiming the boards came from a caboose will NOT be accepted.

First, Second and Third Place plaques will be presented in this special category.

If you wish, you may also enter your model in any other category for which it qualifies – EXCEPT CABOOSES!

Convention Pics

All photos by Riley Triggs

A few pictures from the Austin Eagle LSR 2018 Convention banquet

ML

NOW AVAILABLE!

Color

Pike and Dealer Ads

Pike and dealer ads are now available in color for the same price! Share your railroad or advertise your business to others while supporting the Lone Star Region.

- **Do you have a herald for your railroad?**
- **Is there a unique feature?**
- **What is the name of your hotshot freight or crack passenger service?**

Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

Pike ads are $8 per year and dealer ads are $20 per year.

Payment should be made out to:
LSR NMRA

Contact Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to:
rileytriggs@gmail.com

CCMRC 60th Anniversary Club Car

Order Form

The Crescent City Model Railroad club in Metairie, Louisiana still has a few of its Accurail Crescent Lines 50 foot HO Scale boxcar that was made to celebrate its 60th Anniversary in 2016. It is available for a donation of $30.00 for each car, plus $6.00 shipping for the first car and $2.00 for each additional car ordered. It is available in one road number that commemorates the clubs founding in March of 1956. Extra decals are also available for just $4.00 per set. To place an order, please send your payment made out to CCMRC for the correct amount to:

Crescent City Model Railroad Club
601 N. Lester Ave
Metairie, LA 70003-6131

CRESCENT LINES

Quantity: _____ X $30.00 each

Total for cars: $ _____

Shipping: $6.00

Additional Shipping per car $2.00 ea $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Thank you for supporting the Crescent City Model Railroad Club!

Board of Directors Minutes

MINUTES OF THE LONE STAR REGION BOARD MEETING
Round Rock, Texas – June 13, 2018

President Chuck Lind called the Annual Board meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except:
Voting Board Members:

Position	Elected Rep	Proxy
Advisor – Steve Barkley	– Jim Lemmond	
Division 7 – Don Kimmell	– Jeff Palmer	

Open Chairs:

Membership –

Guests in attendance:

Charlie Getz – NMRA President
Nathan Oxhandler
Jeffrey Fowler
John Massura
John Garfield
Kenneth Kaiser

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Donna Orr provided a motion and Ray Byer seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published the Minutes of the January 27, 2018 Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting published in the 2018 Winter issue of The Marker Lamp - designated as 2018-06-13 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers Reports

President Chuck Lind

The elections are over and I would like to thank all the members that took time to vote. The results are as follows: Vice President, Ray Byer; Secretary, Jeff Palmer; Directors At-Large, Blake Bogs, Marc LaChey, Riley Triggs; Division 2 Director, Ken Mason; Division 4 Director, Bob Thiele; Division 6 Director, Don Winn and Division 8 Director, Jim Lemmond. While some of these are returning to the Board, three of the Division Directors will be new to the Board. I want to thank Bob Barnett, Rod Fredericks, Peter Kazmir and Kevin Bergeman for their service to the Board. Remember, the Lone Star Region is your organization. If you don't like what is happening, come to a Board meeting or better yet run for an office. Together we can make this an outstanding Region.

As I write this column, I have just returned from the Sn3 Symposium held in Dallas. No, I am not changing scales,

but I was asked by Marc LeChey to do a clinic and help with the contest room. While attending the symposium, I was able to attend several clinics where I could see how people from different areas of the country solve some of their modeling problems. The opening clinic was a hands-on figure painting clinic. Marc was nice enough to furnish me with an O Scale figure. Warren Judge, a very accomplished military figure painter, taught us how he goes about painting his figures. While this was a 3.5 hour clinic to paint one figure going into great detail, I came away with several tricks that I can add to the way I presently paint figures. What does all this have to do with the President's column and the Lone Star Region? You can learn from all scales and forms of modeling, just keep an open mind and you might just pick up an idea that will improve your modeling.

The Lone Star Region 2018 Convention is getting closer, June 13-16, have you registered yet? Peter and his team from Division 4 have put together what looks to be another outstanding convention. It will be held just north of Austin in Round Rock at the same hotel we have used in the past. You can read the full details about the convention in this issue of the Marker Lamp, so I won't go into that here, other than to say that the outgoing NMRA President, Charlie Getz, has decided that the last regional convention he will attend as President will be our Lone Star Region Convention. He said we always make him and his wife, Margaret, feel so welcome.

Be sure to attend the awards banquet at the 2018 Convention, where we will hear about the upcoming conventions – 2019 in Dallas and 2020 in Houston.

Keep this hobby rolling by sharing it with young and old!

Vice-President Bob Barnett

The first half 2018 has been busy for the LSR and for the members here in the Gulf Coast area.
The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club recently hosted the annual Greater Houston Train Show with a full slate of clinics. Divisions 1, 3, and 8 continue to schedule and hold monthly meetings complete with programs or clinics. Division 5 is preparing to host the annual Lone Star Region Convention. So our Education and outreach activities have been in full swing and I am sure there are more that I am not aware. The details of the content and presenters is shown in Education Chairs report
Ray Byer will take over the position of Vice President at the Annual Convention. I have enjoyed working with the Board of the Lone Star Region for the last seven years and appreciate the efforts from the Board and the membership from all parts of the state as each Division continues to promote the hobby in their part of the LSR.
There is No Greater Hobby then Model Railroading and no fine group of individuals to work with.

Treasurer Gert Muller

For the Fiscal Year of 2017/2018

Beginning Balance 05/01/2017		
LSR Checking Account	$29,798.92	
Morgan Stanley CD Fund	$ 9,875.17	
Beginning LSR Funds	$39,674.09	
Beginning Liabilities (#1)	$ 855.00	
Total LSR Net Worth (A)	$38,819.09	

(#1 Liabilities include Funds for the Bob Clark Award: $570, Divisions 2,5,6,and 7 Rebate Funds: 285; $855.00)

LSR Proceeds	
Morgan Stanley CD Fund Interest	$ 93.31
Morgan Stanley Fee error corrected	$ 150.00
Amazon Smile	$ 5.00
Marker Lamp Dealer Ads	$ 40.00
Marker Lamp Pike Ads	$ 112.00
Convention proceeds	$ 226.00
Delattre donation	$ 1,500.00
NMRA Region Rebate	$ 1,848.00
Total Proceeds (B)	$ 3,974.00

LSR Disbursements	
Youth membership awards	$ 221.00
Election Printing and Mailing	$ 86.01
BOD Meeting Expenses	$ 81.39
NMRA rebate to divisions	$ 1,149.00
Convention Non-rail Expenses	$ 214.69
Contest Room Expenses	$ 382.77
Historian Expenses	$ 38.97
Website Expenses	$ 50.52
Banking Costs (Checks)	$ 26.00
Memorial Donations	$ 75.00
Payout for Restricted Rebate Funds	$ 96.50
Payout for Bob Clark Fund	$ 41.14
Payout for Restricted Delattre Fund	$ 300.00
Total Disbursements (C)	$ 2,762.99
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements (B-C)	$ 1,211.32
Reduction in Liabilities	$ 437.64
Increase in Liabilities	$ 1,624.00
Change in Liabilities (D)	$ 1,186.36

Ending Balance 4/30/2018	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	$40,885.41
Morgan Stanley CD fund	$ 0.00
LSR Funds	$40,885.41
Liabilities (#2)	$ 2,041.36
Total LSR Net Worth	$38,844.05
(Check: E = A + B – C – D	$38,844.05)

(#2 Liabilities include: Funds for the Bob Clark Award: $528.86, DeLattre Fund: $1,200.00, Divisions 2 and 7 Rebate Funds: $312.50; $2,041.36)

Secretary Jeff Palmer

Since our January 27, 2018 BOD meeting, the LSR Secretary worked with the Nomination Chair, Blake Bogs, to hold the 2018 LSR Officers election. The month of March is election month and the polls opened at 12:01 AM March 1 and closed on March 30 at 12 Midnight.

The Secretary has provided the LSR President with the "recertification" information for the NMRA insurance. The State of Texas Controller records will be updated after the verification of the newly elected officers is complete at the Annual Meeting.

Currently the secretary is trying to pull together the various reports from the other LSR Officers and Chairs in preparation of the June 13, 2018 BOD meeting in Round Rock. The cooperation of the officers and chairs would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to the 2018 convention. Reviewing the 2018 website, I'm really looking forward to a number of clinics, and touring some of the fantastic layouts - https://austineagle.org/.

Working with the Division 3 and the Convention Chair to pull together the 2019 convention.

As covered in the Webchair Report, the LSR Website has been very stable. I would also like to thank Chris Atkins for allowing the LSR to use the https://geekwithtrains.com
website to hold our elections.

One last note, please remember in your reporting that education is our prime directive and to hi-lite it where possible in your reporting.

Advisor Steve Barkley

No Report

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Mike Mackey reported that:

Amazing how time flies, right? It was just twelve short months ago that we started monthly meetings in Division 1 and look how things have grown. Our attendance has reached a monthly average of around 40. Our clinics are being enjoyed by all, and many modelers are improving their skills. The Achievement Program within our division is growing by leaps and bounds. We've established a new recruiting booth and test track. Our meeting location is one of the best ever thanks to the Texas Western Model Railroad Club. Finally, your team of managers work so well together that this well-oiled machine makes my job so satisfying. I'd like to thank everyone in our division for contributing to our cumulative success.

Division 2 Director Ken Mason reported:
Hello Everyone, My name is Ken Mason and I am the new Division 2 Director for the Bayou Division of the Lone Star Region, NMRA. I am a member of the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana where I am currently the Vice-President of the club. I will do my best to increase awareness of the NMRA within our division and hope to be able to help us gain some new members too.

If you were not aware, we do already have a Division 2 Facebook page up and running. If you have any pictures or announcements that you would like to have on the page, please either contact me directly by cell at 504-722-6610, email (series9parts@cox.net) or just post your information or pictures on the page as a visitor and I will be glad to share it on the page. Look for it on Facebook under Lone Star Region Division 2. I hope that everyone reading this will take the time to check out the page and like it so that more hobbyists in our area can keep up to date on the latest happenings in our division.

Upcoming Events in Division 2

Operations are getting running again on the Crescent Lines at the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana, as the crew is building new trains and jobs in the JMRI system. Some recent practice and test operating sessions have gone well and the hope is to start operating on a more regular basis. The building has also had some attention lately with new siding along the entry wall and the long wall along N. Lester Ave. There is also a new awning over the entry door to help keep rain off of members entering in bad weather. Another club member Amtrak trip is in the works with a trip being planned to the Lake Charles area on the Sunset Limited probably sometime in July. The club is also gearing up for the Holiday Season with a number of open house dates starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Be sure to check the clubs Facebook page and website for more information and the complete schedule of open house dates.

The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders in Jackson, Louisiana are open every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month and is free to the public. They have displays in all scales ranging from N to G and everything in between and even a live steam track outdoors. They have 2 buildings that are loaded with trains of all kinds. Look forward to a live steam steam up day in Jackson, Louisiana on October 27, 2018.

Blane Deroche of the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders is hosting another Train Day at the Lutcher Library. The show date is July 21, 2018. Show time is 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The location is the Lutcher Library at 1879 W. Main St, Lutcher, Louisiana.

The next Baton Rouge TCA club Train Show and Sale will be held again in conjunction with the Ponchatoula Trade Days on November 3, 2018. It will again be at the First Baptist Church gymnasium at 325 E. Pine Street in Ponchatoula.

The Mid-south Model Railroad Club in Baton Rouge is still seeking new members. They currently have 20 full members and 3 associate members. Membership is still very much open and new members are always welcome. The railroad itself is back 100% fully functional and the club has run several closed operating sessions. The club is open to visitors on Tuesday evenings after 7:00 pm or on weekends. Please contact the club thru their Facebook page or via email at MidSouth1069@yahoo.com to see if anyone will be on site. They will also be hosting a public operating session on June 2.

Out in the Lake Charles Area is located the Lake Area Model Railroaders. They are located in the Lake Charles Children's Museum at 327 Broad Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. They have a functioning display layout called the Sweet Lake and Gulf Railroad.

Be on the lookout for some upcoming clinics to be held in our division. I hope to start having educational clinics in and around the division in the future. If anyone would like to volunteer to present a clinic, please contact me. Remember, clinic presentation can count toward your AP certificate for Model Railroad Author.

If anyone in the division has any news or events they would like to have passed along to our members, please be sure to contact me at series9parts@cox.net. I am also looking for any contact information for any modelers or clubs in the Covington and Lafayette area of the division.

Modular Group Formation

The Lone Star Region Division 2 of the NMRA is also working on putting together a HO scale modular group to set up and run trains at local train shows. It will not be a formal club, but NMRA membership will be required to participate. We will follow NMRA standards and recommended practices for modules. Come join us and don't just visit the train show, come and be a part of the train show and run your trains on a modular layout for all to enjoy.

We first need to start with four corners to make a loop and then we can expand with straight sections that will be 30 X 40 inches. It will be a double track mainline and eventually hope to expand into enough straight modules to include a yard to switch out and store trains. The CCMRC is working on plans for four corner modules to get this started and to use as a running display at the New Orleans Historic Train Garden at City Park for an event that is being planned by that group in October.

Division 3 Director Donna Orr reported that:

February was the month that we started our Boxcar Clinics. We went to a home location so we were able to have an area that 43 could airbrush their box cars of any scale. Several paint stations were set up for airbrushing. And we thank Bill Huebner, Duane Richardson and Mark LaChay for heading up the airbrushing stations. For those that did not participate in the airbrushing there were "how to " discussions while the painting was going on.

March was our Decal hands on. Those that painted their boxcars last month were able to add decals to their boxcars at this months clinic. There were extra boxcars painted in February, so those that couldn't make February could continue on with adding decals to a boxcar.

April, ah weathering our boxcars. First Bill Huebner went through a demonstration on using paints to weather and then Duane Richardson gave his demonstration on using pastels and various ways to weather using india ink etc. Both of these demonstrations will be on video for the Division members use.

And at every meeting there is show and tell. With some very interesting projects. We had some interesting projects, such as, a small building made completely out of pasta. And Cody and Casey Akin showed pictures of their outdoor Tressel. It is hugh. You will see a pictures in the marker lamp

Going forward we will be building a scene with the box car. So more to come.

And then also there will be information on the 2019 LSR Convention.

Division 4 Director Bob Thiele reported:

Peter Kazmir Reported:
We are keeping busy in Central Texas!

We've had two Division meetups since the last Marker Lamp, in March and May. In March, Jack Merkel, MMR gave a great presentation about the industries he models on his layout, with lots of great background information and details that are easy to model. Afterwards, we toured Kim Saign's outstanding N scale Burlington Northern model railroad.

May has been busy – and we're only two weeks in (as I write this).

First, working with the Austin Model Railway Society, we hosted the 2018 Austin Area Train Show, celebrating 45 years of trains shows here. It was a great success with many families in attenance; among other things, the Texas Brick Railroad's "L Scale" layout was a big hit! (See pictures) We also signed up a few new NMRA and club members, and many folks visited area home layouts. We're already busy planning next year's show (which will be May 4-5, 2019)!

Then, on May 12, we had our most recent meetup, where Steve Jackobs gave a great presentation on tips and tricks he's learned building his shelf layout, the Austin & Taylor & Pacific. (Great railroads come in all sizes!)

Pictures and detailed recaps from each meetup, as well as pictures and information about these and other layouts across our Division, are posted on our website, centexnmra.org. The site also hosts a discussion board open to the public. (And both of those layouts will be hosting operating sessions at the Austin Eagle – your 2018 NMRA Lone Star Region Convention! See below for details!)

On a personal note, this marks my final official duty as Director of the Cen-Tex Division. It has truly been a pleasure working with all of you these past four years. What a great group of people you all are, this is the best place to be a model railroader. I'm looking forward to a spectacular convention next month, then some more time with my own model railroad. But don't worry (or – worry!), I'll still be around, and may even throw my hat into the ring for Division Treasurer. Model Railroading is fun, right?

Bob Thiele Reported:
My name is Bob Thiele and I am be the new Director of Cen-Tex Division. I am happy to be in this position and hope to make some productive and positive contributions. It is my intention to build on the excellent work of the previous Directors and create an environment where model railroaders come together and create.

Members of the Cen-Tex Division have been very busy on two major projects. By the time you read this the Cen-Tex members will have wrapped up the Train Show in Taylor, Texas. All indications point to a very successful show which includes five model railroad displays and numerous vendors.

The second major event the members are working very hard towards is the LSR Convention in Round Rock, Texas. The convention planning committee has put in countless hours to give NMRA members an enjoyable experience and memories that will last for years. There will be more than 60 clinics and presentations covering a wide range of interests, including some from guests Trevor Marshall (also our keynote speaker), Lance Mindheim and Charlie Getz. Members who enjoy operations sessions will enjoy the layouts which are scheduled for this convention. The scheduled prototype tours, including trips to the Austin Steam Train Facilities and Capital Metro Dispatch Center and Maintenance Facility, should make for pleasurable day trips and the non-rail tours were planned to be fun.

Hope to see you at the Austin Eagle convention in June. All information can be found at austineagle.org.

Our next meeting will be July 14 at the Austin Northwest Recreation Center. Details and directions are available at

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts reported:

Although there has not been a lot of action with our club - the city of Lubbock did present us with a nice surprise. A few years ago our only hobby shop (Wings and Things) went toes. Last month HobbyTown opened shop in Lubbock. Although a little light on train stuff, they have a great inventory of tools, paints and other scratch building supplies. Keith Butler is the owner and Emily (his daughter) is the shop manager. We are glad to have them here. (Disclaimer: neither I nor anyone in my family has any financial interest in Hobby Town).

I gave a clinic last month on how to make stuff look rusted. It was brilliant!
.
Division 6 Don Winn reported:

Spring is here, and things are starting to happen in the South Texas Division!
We have been doing some recruiting at the local train shows. In February, we signed up 7 new members (including 1 for Division 4) at the SAMRA Train Show. We used both of our military grants, and they were appreciated. Thanks to Chuck and Laurie Lind for helping out. In April, we signed up 3 new members (including 2 for Division 4) at the New Braunfels Train Show. Thanks to George Zapalac for helping there. Besides actually signing up new members, we talked with a number of modelers about what we do and promoted the Austin Eagle regional convention.

A new website was created for the division: http://southtexasnmra.org/. We're looking for a webmaster to take it over.

NMRA members, Frolin Marek and Tom Crosthwait, initiated a new program called the South Texas Railroad Socials. The program kicked off on March 24th, and by all measures, it was a huge success. Approximately 40 modelers and railfans attended, and the feedback has been extremely positive. The group has planned their next event for June 30th. More information will be posted to their website: www.southtexasrr.com

The socials follow a format that has proven successful for many NMRA division meetings. The social organizers and myself have talked about where to go from here. With plans to continue the socials, we decided to take a different approach with our division meetings. We will be focused on hands-on clinics where members can learn new skills or practice different techniques.

We held our first Division 6 meeting of the year on April 28th. The focus of the meeting was a free Make-N-Take clinic on creating coniferous trees using the bottle brush method. Seven members attended the event and were able to try their hand at the 4 different tree machines we had available. Trees were created in N, HO and G scale! A good time was had by all, and some nice trees were created. See photos below.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported:

Division 7 has managed to maintain a fairly stable membership, no major increases nor decreases. That being said, I will admit that I have not done much of anything to increase our membership. I have placed flyers at both of our "local" hobby shops and asked our membership for any leads.
When I travel with the KCS's Holiday Express, I always have info sheets available to hand out, unfortunately, a number of our "stops" are outside the LSR's boundaries.

We have not held any Division-wide meetings during the past 6 months. We may have a "workshop" during the upcoming 3 week display that the ArkLaTex Modular will set up at the local Shriner Hospital. They usually set up the last 2 or 3 weeks in June.

I did a couple of Boy Scout merit badge intros, Haynesville, Farmerville and Delhi in the past 6 months, also promoting the benefits of joining our organization.

Division 8 Director Jim Lemmond reported:

Train Shows

The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's annual train show was held on February 17, 2018, in the Stafford Centre, Stafford, Texas. The attendance was 1200+ paid admissions. The vendors reported very good sales. All vendors' tables were sold out. The clinic sessions were well attended and received. The Division 8/LSR booth sold 14 NMRA memberships during the show.

The Galveston Railroad Museum Train Show was held on April 28 and 29, 2018 at the historic Santa Fe Depot in Galveston. The show featured local club layouts displaying Z to G scales. The show included tours of various rail equipment on display at the museum with short train rides powered by the museum's 44 ton diesel locomotive. LSR and Division 8 were represented by a booth manned by Chuck Lind, MMR, Rick Austin and Jim Lemmond. Chuck Lind demonstrated Pan Pastel weathering techniques to all visitors to the LSR Booth.

Division 8 Clinics

The Division 8 clinic series has shown increased attendance beginning with the first clinic session in March. The upcoming "Make 'n Take" two part clinics (July and August) will feature building a freight house in the attendee's scale of choice (N, HO, S and O scales). The Division is currently taking orders for this custom laser cut structure. A link for buying the kit is on the Texas Gulf Division's web site (www.texasgulfdivision.org/clinics). Payment is via PayPal or credit card. The kits will be delivered at the July 2018, clinic.

April 14, 2018, the Division sponsored a hands-on clinic featuring Pan Pastel weathering for your model railroad. Loren Neufeld, MMR, presented the clinic. The various techniques of weathering using Pan Pastels were demonstrated and tried by the attendees.

2020 LSR Convention

Discussions have begun within Division 8 about the 2020 LSR Convention. Items being discussed are: location, convention committee, dates and convention format.

NMRA Convention 2018

Remember the NMRA Convention 2018 will be in Kansas City (http://www.kc2018.org/) August 5 – 12, 2018. Tony Koester will be the featured speaker at the Convention Banquet.

2018 National Narrow Gauge Convention

The 2018 National Narrow Gauge Convention will be in Minneapolis (https://nngc-2018.com/) September 5 - 8, 2018. The convention is featuring a steam excursion on the North Shore Scenic Railroad in Duluth, Minnesota (http://northshorescenicrailroad.org/). The convention will include all the traditional favorites like clinics, contests and loads of layouts to examine. In addition to the cooler climate, September is a very pleasant time to visit Minnesota.

Division 8 Annual Meeting

Division 8 will be holding their annual business meeting and picnic during September/October (date to be determined) at Zube Park in Northwest Harris County with the Houston Live Steamers Club. Stay tuned for more information.

Division 8 2018, Clinic Schedule

May	Basic DCC Programming
June	Smart Phone Throttles
July	Make 'n Take session 1
August	Make 'n Take session 2
September	LEDs for Model Railroaders
October	Backdrops
November	DCC++ Arduino DCC

Director-At-Large Marc LaChey reported:

This spring, thanks in part to the sponsorship of the LSR, I hosted the 33rd Annual Sn3 Symposium in Garland, TX. The Symposium is a gathering of narrow gauge modelers whose scale of choice is S. The event was well attended with approximately 120 registered guests. Attendees came from Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Washington, Pennsylvania and Florida.

The Symposium featured twelve standard clinics and two special "make and take" clinics. Warren Judge from near Chicago presented a make and take clinic during which attendees learned about painting small-scale figures. Warren taught folks to start with a figure painted black and then how to build the color creating a striking figure.

The next day, LSR Members, Duane Richardson and Bob Brendle taught guests how to build a D&RGW 6000 series flat car. At the start of the clinic, Duane reviewed the various safety and brake appliances on the car. Then Bob showed folks how to weather plastic to appear as weathered wood. Both "make and take" clinics were very popular and sold out.

In keeping with the LSR goal of education, the standard clinic menu featured clinics on electrical tweaks for brass locomotives, modeling with forced perspective, how to create an operating system for your layout and a clinic on everything you needed to know about building a layout.

Layout tours are always a fun part of any model railroad event. Thanks to former Division 3 director, Jerry Hoverson, former LSR President, Jim Packer, current Division 1 director, Mike Mackey, Division 1 members, Leo & Lori Paletti along with others for opening their layouts for visitors during the Symposium

A number of LSR members, many of which model in scales other than Sn3 attended the event. Jeff Palmer, LSR region secretary served as the Webmaster for the Symposium website. LSR members, Dave Griffith and Steele Craver provided support during the event. LSR President, Chuck Lind and Duane Richardson were both contest room winners.

Profits of $657.00 from the Symposium were donated to the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. As always, having the sponsorship and support of the NMRA through the Lone Star Region was an important part of being able to produce the Sn3 Symposium.

Director-At-Large Blake Bogs reported:

It has been a successful six months for my Director at Large Position.
Marker Lamp- My Director at Large/nomination update was sent in for latest issue
Nomination- See report. The election ran without any problems. I am also always on the look-out for new candidates. Please contact me if you wish to run.
Volunteered- Tomball German Fest- ran O gauge layout
Petticoat Junction Clinic's
- February- Pete Leach, Back Drop Clinic
- March- John Buckley, 3D printing
- April – Layout Tour
- May- Steve Sandifer, Texas and Pacific Steam Clinic
- June- Jim Brandenburg- Under Mountain Route/Argentine Central Sub Division

Director-At-Large Riley Triggs reported:

Members of the CenTex Division have formed a new 100% NMRA club, the Austin Model Railway Society and we have received 501 (c) 3 status for our organization with the mission to educate the public about railroad activities in general and specifically the history of the railroads in around Central Texas. Bylaws have been adopted, membership dues set and paid, and officers elected. Membership is open to anyone.

Our first activity is to build a modular layout based on Austin, Round Rock and Taylor. We have created a module standard that is being produced by David Petersen of Masterpiece Modules in Austin that allows for prototype operations and train show display running. http://www.masterpiecemodules.com/contact.php The first phase of basic module construction is complete, and we will be turning our attention towards displaying the modules as part of our education mission of railroad history in and around Austin, Tx.

The Austin Area Train Show will be in Taylor, Tx again the first weekend in May in coordination with Taylor's Blackland Prairie Days, and the modular layout was successfully set up, displayed and operated for the public. Club members also supported the volunteer efforts for putting on the show, which is in its second year in Taylor.

The search for more members and a more permanent home is under way to solidify the club and its activities. The goal is for the club to be a public outreach and education component supporting the efforts of the CenTex Division and LSR. Many of the club members are active in all the activities in the area. Department Reports

Achievement Chair Duane Richardson reported:

I have been holding off on this report until I had the report from National for this month since we had paperwork being processed. I'm pleased to report that thanks to the efforts of Tom Crosthwait and John Lowrance who traveled to Mexico to take care of some judging, we have our first AP Certificate awarded south of the boarder. I know the LSR does not cover Mexico but we will be helping to process their AP work for the time being. My thanks to Tom and John for going above and beyond.

Since last year's convention members of the LSR have achieved the following:

Dave Lamberts - Official
Bob Barnett - Civil & Cars
Pete Leach - Author
Don Hand - Author
Tom Greco - Author
David Griffith - Volunteer
John Garfield - Scenery, Volunteer & Civil
Leo Palitti - Volunteer, Scenery & Structures
Lorrie Palitti - Volunteer, Scenery & Structures
Don Formanek - Volunteer
Michael Ross - Scenery
George Zapalac - Dispatcher
Jeff Palmer - Scenery
Ezequiel Duran (from Mexico) - Civil

Bob Barnett's certificates completed his MMR! Congrats to Bob

Contest Chair Loren Neufeld reported:

Contest categories are remaining the same this year as in previous years. The only variations are that the Arts & Crafts theme this year is "Eagles" and the special contest in modelbuilding is the "peanut butter lid" contest, in which the contestant builds an entry within the perimeter of a peanut butter jar lid.
The type of award plaques presented this year is changing slightly due to difficulties in previous years in preparing plaques in time for the banquet. We will no longer print photos of the entries to be inserted into the plaques. Instead, a generic drawing or photo of, for example, an engine, will be in the plaque along with the convention and LSR logos. For the special award plaques – Architecture,

Most Popular, Best of Show, etc. – a metal name plate will be made and mailed to the winner after the convention. These changes will allow the plaques to be completed prior to the convention, which will eliminate the Saturday afternoon time crunch.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded as usual.

Photos will be taken of the winning entries.

Other award options are being considered for future years to control costs. Contest categories will remain the same.

Convention Chair Marc LaChey reported:

First, I want to thank Peter Kazmir, Chair of the 2018 LSR Convention and Bob Thiele, Director of Division Four for hosting this year's convention, the Austin Eagle. I have not had the opportunity to attend a convention in Division Four and I am anxious to get down to Austin to attend clinics and see layouts that will be new to me. I am particularly excited about meeting guest speaker, Trevor Marshall. Not only is Trevor a fellow S scale modeler, Trevor provided inspiration and guidance on the building of the Elk Canyon & Western Railroad. Trevor wrote several articles that appeared in Railroad Model Craftsman between 2007 and 2009 that provided critical insights that contributed to the success of the ECW. I met Trevor once before during a visit to his home in Toronto and I look forward to renewing the acquaintance.

Thanks also to Division 3 for assuming the responsibility of hosting the 2019 LSR Convention and Division 8 for hosting the 2020 LSR Convention. Unfortunately, we have not yet identified a host Division or committee to host the 2021 LSR Convention. I have had conversations with the Directors of both Division 2 and 6 and remain hopeful that one of these two divisions will have the courage to step up. Hosting a convention is no small task. But with the support available within the region, there are resources that can support a division or committee who has not hosted a convention in recent years.

I want to take a moment and share some history and changing perspectives on the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Regional Convention committee. In 2011, I agreed to Chair the 2013 LSR Convention co-hosted by Divisions 1 & 3. Almost immediately after accepting the job, I was ready to quit when then Regional Convention Committee Chairman, Bill McPherson told me that I would have to reconsider the dates that I wanted to use for the convention. And for the next two years I dealt with criticism and second-guessing by more folks than I care to remember. I got through the convention but vowed to never again agree to Chair an LSR Convention.

In 2014 and again in 2018, I produced the Sn3 Symposium. I was personally liable for the success or failure of the event. In both instances, that meant that it was my credit card on the line for roughly $15,000 in costs should the event fail. But since it was my nickel at risk, all the decisions were also mine. But in hindsight, I have to give some amount of credit to Bill McPherson for the success of the 2013 LSR Convention and the two Sn3 Symposiums. As much as I resented those calls from Bill leading up to the 2013 LSR Convention, it was Bill's experience in reviewing hotel contracts and his long history with past LSR conventions that kept me out of the ditch on more than one occasion.

So as I read the duties of the Chairman of the Convention Committee, my perspective has changed. For those who have not recently read the By-laws of the LSR, here are the duties of the Convention committee.

"Duties of this committee are to coordinate the activities of the host city convention to insure as far as possible a good convention each year. In cases where the committee decides that the host convention committee is not functioning properly, it should bring the matter promptly to the attention of the President and the Board of Directors".

Even more interesting, the LSR By-laws take up fifteen pages when printed. Of those fifteen pages, five and one half pages are devoted to Article V-Conventions.

Given the amount of space devoted to our Regional Convention, it is clear that the convention is probably the most important activity that the Lone Star Region provides to it's members each year.

So now with seven years in the rear view mirror to reflect and reconsider my predecessor, I admit that I learned some things. Some things I intend to do differently. But I did learn a few things from Bill that I can hopefully use to continue to fulfill my duty to "insure as far as possible a good convention each year".

Education Chair Bob Barnett reported:

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Presentations:
1. January 2, 2018 – "East Texas Logging" by Chuck Lind.
2. February 6, 2018 – "Gauntlet Track Weigh Scale Double Track Crossing and Fuel Distributor" by Jim Williams. A detailed presentation on scratch-building structures from historical photographs, local records and aerial photography.
3. March 6, 2018 – "Houston Railroads - Post War to Present" by Al Partlow
4. April 3, 2018 – "Signs for the Mystic Branch" by Gene Mangum
5. May 1, 2018 – "The T&NO's Austin Branch" by Al Partlow. Al presents a detailed view of the Southern Pacific's Austin Sub-Division and Llano Subdivision with steam era through modern day photographs.

LSR Division 2 Presentations:
1. January '18-
2. February 10, 2018: Realistic Roof Details – Mike Corley
3. March 2018 -– Part 1 Blank Boxcar to Trackside Feature – Painting and Airbrush Techniques – Bill Huebner and Duane Richardson
4. April 14, 2018 – Part 2 –Blank Boxcar to Trackside Feature - Decaling by Duane Richardson.
5. May '18 – Part 3 Blank Boxcar to Trackside Feature – Finishing the Scene – Mike Mackey

LSR Division 8 Presentations:
1. March 17, 2018 – Weathering with Pan Pastels by Loren Neufeld, MMR.
2. April 14, 2018 – Tuning Locomotives – by Mark Couvillian
3. May 12, 2018 – Basic DCC Programming –by Ray Byer.
4. June 9, 2018 Smart Phone Throttles by TBA

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reported:

We are gaining ground as more folks are sending in notices for up-coming events, though I am still getting some notices few days or so after I have submitted the column. There have been several folks who have called, following up with e-mails with more details.
Anyone having events to be published, please send me the details:
bdr149@airmail.net

A reminder to all:
Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Historian Chair Bob Barnett – No Report.

Nominating Chair Blake Bogs reported:

We had 99 votes. This was made up of 4 ballots via mail and 95 online votes.
This is compared to the 2013 election (112 votes), 2014 election (around 120 votes), 2014 constitution change election (141 votes), 2015 election (107 votes), 2015 constitution change election (91 votes) , 2016 election (98 votes), 2017 election (124 votes)
This election's winners:
Vice President: Ray Byer
Secretary- Jeff Palmer
Director at Large: Blake Bogs
Marc LaChey
Riley Triggs
Division 2 Director: Ken Mason
Division 4: Bob Thiele
Division 6: Don Winn
Division 8: Jim Lemmond

Division 1, 3, 5, 7, Treasurer and President ---Running on 2018 Ballot
Nomination Period will be same as last year. Election will run March 1, 2019- March 31, 2019. Cut off for nominations will be December 1, 2019

Non-Rail Virginia Feritag not present – No Report.

Publications Chair Riley Triggs reported:

Report of year's activities
The emphasis continues to be on the regular column contributors providing a strong base of material. Gert "Speed" Muller, Blake Bogs, Peter Kazmir and Duane Richardson are doing a tremendous job at producing interesting, informative and educational material for our membership.

I would like to bring focus on the rest of the chair and directors in the region who have not been submitting reports. Each position should have something to say about their activities, the hobby, or the way they are engaging with the model railroading community as an elected or appointed member in support of the LSR's mission.

Metrics
Jeff Palmer has provided some metrics for the consumption of the Marker Lamp. He indicates that 65% of 1100 members download the Marker Lamp from the email he sends out at publication time. Of that total, 53.4% download during the initial announcement and another 10.7% over the balance of the month.

Areas to address
Advertising in Pike and Dealer ads still need attention. There has been some interest in upgrading ads to color, but no new pike nor dealers are participating. There has been no particular effort to acquire new ads this year, but this is an ongoing situation.

Long term projects update
Major projects are on hold to gather time and resources to accomplish them.

Website Chair Jeff Palmer reported that:

Our service provider continues to provide an excellent service. The ability to host additional websites is exceptional and can be accomplished with minimal effort; i.e. http://www.2018sn3symposium.com/. The website for the up-coming 2019 convention is beginning to take shape. The URL www.2019TexasSpecial.com points to what will be to host site for the 2019 LSR Convention.

I'm still researching the use of adding content to the web site for Vendors and Sponsors. My thought was this:
Vendors – This would be a quick way of finding major vendor sites
Sponsors – This would be the location the different division could advertise there sponsors.

Any thoughts? Is there something else that need to be added to the website?

The election has concluded and the election website www.geekwithtrains.com has served us well. The site was set to automatically open the election at 12:01 AM on the first of March and shutdown at 12:00 PM on March 30. It worked as designed. Up on the conclusion of the election Blake Bogs was provided with the online results. And the rest is history.

I built and maintained the Sn3 Symposium website http://www.2018sn3symposium.com/. The Symposium is over, but the website will be maintained for another 6-12 months before being backed up and deleted.

No progress has been made Division 3's website http://trinityriverdivision.com/. More work is needed but the foot print has been setup.

As to the Officer's Page, use the link at the bottom of the LSR Officer's page or the URL - http://www.lonestarregion.com/node/7. Please remember, right now security is by obscurity or the general lack of availability of the material. No logon required. Don't share.

Over the past 6 months, 16 LSR emailings have gone out, The volume will continue in support of the upcoming 2018 Convention.

Normal activity continues, as the posting of reports, motions, and emailing for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Youth Chair, Jim Lemmond reported:

It's time to be considering a youth for your Division's Youth Award Nominee Each Division may submit one nomination for this award. The qualifications are as follows:

1. Be a student. Anyone under the age of 18 qualifies if they are not already an NMRA member. The NMRA has also made arrangements to allow college students under the age of 25 to qualify as a STUDENT. They must have a CURRENT student ID to the school they are attending – include a photocopy of the ID.

2. Be sponsored by a current NMRA member. The Division Director must approve

3. Be presented by the Division Director at the Annual BOD meeting – one sponsorship per year.

4. LSR Board of Directors approval

Important dates:

December 15, 2018 – LSR Youth Nomination form and student biography emailed or sent to Jim Lemmond jimlem@comcast.net or 2821 Frostwood Circle, Dickinson, Texas 77539. I will then send all nominations to the LSR Secretary, Jeff Palmer by January 5, 2019. All nominations will be submitted to the LSR Board of Directors for approval at the mid-year Board meeting in January 2019. All approved nominees will be invited to attend the LSR June Convention banquet to receive their award.

The information and forms for this award may be downloaded from the LSR web site: http://www.lonestarregion.com/node/49

LSR's goal is to have a Youth Award from each Division of the LSR.

Membership Chair, open position – No Report.

Photography, Dave Lamberts – No Report.

Parliamentarian, Ray Byer – No Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Chuck Lind opened "Old Business" by introducing Charlie Getz, the NMRA President. Charlie declined to speak at the time.

Gert Muller, the LSR Treasurer, reiterated his earlier report and let us know that the LSR was still solvent but stagnate as to income.
Marc LaChey, Sn3 Symposium Convention Chair, reported that the Sn3 Symposium was a success and went off without a hitch. He thank the LSR for their support.

NEW BUSINESS

The first order of new business was the ratification of the new officers:
Vice President: Ray Byer
Secretary- Jeff Palmer
Director at Large: Blake Bogs
: Marc LaChey
: Riley Triggs
Division 2 Director: Ken Mason
Division 4: Bob Thiele
Division 6: Don Winn
Division 8: Jim Lemmond
During this discussion, Chuck Lind asked for the board to consider his appointments of:
Ken Kaiser – Membership Chair (effective January 1, 2019)
John Garfield – Education Chair
Ken wants each division to appoint a membership person, so he has a direct point of contact and can work with/thru those members. Motion 2, for approval of the elected officers, was made by Blake Bogs, and seconded by Mike

Mackey. The board unanimously approved the officers and the chair appointments.

The next business item was the audit report of the LSR Finances. Donna Orr and Marc LaChey performed the audit and reported that "Speed", Gert Muller, has not "cooked the books" or miss use LSR funds. Motion 3, audit approval, was made by Gert Muller, and seconded by Ray Byer. The board unanimously approved the audit.

With the audit being approved, "Speed" entered the discussion of the new 2018/2019 Budget. "Speed" presented a balanced budget, but in the process lowered the line items for the contest room and non-rail. In the ensuing discussion, both items were restored:

Contest-Room - $400
Non-Rail - $500

It was also noted that this information needs to be part of the By-Laws, and Jeff Palmer was asked to do the necessary research and provide a By-Laws change at the next LSR BOD meeting. During this discussion the DeLattre Fund was reviewed. Both Division 6 and 8 have used up their fund allotment, but if the other divisions do not step up to the challenge, those funds will be redistributed to the divisions who can use them. Motion 4, the budget, was made by Gert Muller and seconded by Donna Orr. The board unanimously approved the audit.

The forth new business item was presented by Loren Neufeld and Duane Richardson concerning Contest Room rules and Awards. In the past, contest awards were made very specific by including such things and name and a photo of the model. It was pointed out that this is a very labor intensive process and that the contest awards need to become more generic. The new model for plaques and ribbons was being used at the 2018 Convention and will be reviewed at the next BOD meeting.
A second item for review was the "Proxy" entries (entries where the person making the entry is not present at the convention and has not paid the convention registration). Non-rail and Photo Contest entries do not allow "proxy" entries. So the discussion focused on the model room. It was pointed out that there is a cost for the contest room and awards. This expense is covered by the registration fee of those who enter models, as a result, if a proxy entry is made, it will not be judged for an award. The model can be judged, at the discretion of the contest room judges, for merit. It was noted that the Model Contest Rules need to be modified to reflect this change.

Jim Lemmond reviewed the past years Youth Awards and had plaques for these award winners. Jim also reiterated that he is working to have Youth Awards for all eight divisions and for the board.

The sixth new business item was presented by Peter Kazmir, the 2018 Convention Chair. Peter pointed out that things were going well and in some cases, like attendance, it was going better than expected. He did point out that he had two clinicians cancel, but his staff was scrambling to cover these loses. He hoped we would enjoy the convention and notify him if there are any issues.

Next up was the discussion of the 2019 Convention by Donna Orr. She was happy to report that she was having success in the negotiation of the hotel contract with the Drury Inn in Frisco, TX, but still in negotiation with the American Railroad Museum. After several exchanges about the contract, Marc LaChey made the motion that the Drury Hotel Contract be accepted by the board. Donna Orr seconded Motion 5 and the board unanimously approved it. The Eighth unit of new business was the 2020 Convention. Bob Barnett is to be the Convention Chair for that convention. No other details are available at the time of this posting.

The announcement was made that the BOD would like to hear suggestions from the divisions about the 2021 convention. Ken Mason would like to explore the hosting of a convention in New Orleans, but he has not had the opportunity to approach his division with the idea and to get consensus.

This concluded all of the business items on the agenda. At this point, Chuck Lind asked Charlie Getz if he had any comments. Charlie announced this was his farewell tour and that the LSR was one of his favorite places to go. He liked the manor that business was conducted and thanked all for their efforts.

One final/final note, Dave Lamberts offered to make available to the LSR a copy of all the convention/contest photos taken that could be made available to the attendees of the convention, if so desired. No response at this time.

Chuck Lind closed the meeting at 3:12 PM

ML

Director Reports

These are extra reports - see all the reports in the preceding BOD minutes

Division 6

by Don Winn
donnswinn@gmail.com
940.391.0950

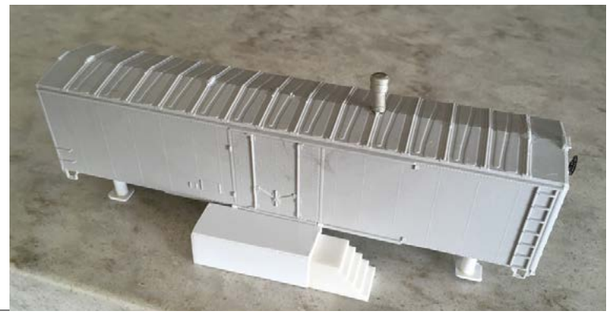
In June, we were treated to an outstanding regional convention in Round Rock. Compliments to Peter and his entire team for putting on such a great event.

Back in San Antonio, the new South Texas Railroad Socials continued with a second event on June 30th, with over 40 in attendance. The program included a slide show of "Railroads Around San Antonio", followed by a demonstrating of painting (yes, painting, not just weathering) with Pan Pastels. After breaking into groups for lunch, we capped off with a tour of Don Scott's impressive layout. The next social is scheduled for September 22nd – mark your calendars.

I had the pleasure of visiting with a number of you at the NMRA national convention up in Kansas City in August. It was a great convention. One of our distinguished division MMRs, John Lowrance, presented 3 clinics which were all well-attended.

At the convention, I attended several of the hands-on clinics, looking for suitable programs to bring back to the division. One that I think will work the best is making a MOW shed out of an old boxcar. I'm going to work up the details of clinic and will plan to have a sample to show at the Social coming up in September.

If you have ideas on things we could be doing in the division, or have a question, please let me know.



Texas Gulf Division 8

by Jim Lemond
jimlem@verzion.net

Congrats to Division 4 for the superb LSR Convention held in Round Rock in June 2018. Great events, wonderful clinics and a well-organized banquet and awards ceremony.

The highlight of Division 8 events in 2018 has been the "Make 'n Take" Clinics held in July and August. The clinics were organized around a custom laser kit produced by Duane Richardson, MMR, of Dallas for Division 8. The clinics were led by Chuck Lind, MMR and Loren Neufeld, MMR. The concept devised was to introduce scratch building techniques to members of Division 8. The custom kits were available in N, HO, S and O scales. We had modelers of all scales participating. Photos have been included of the clinics.

Division 8 members and clubs it is time to be considering a young person for the Lone Star Region Youth Award for 2019. Please refer to the Youth Award column in this Marker Lamp for details. An individual or club may nominate a youth for this award.

Division 8's yearly meeting and picnic will be held at Zube Park with the Houston Area Live Steamers on September 29, 2018. This is an "Ops" day for the Live Steamers and you are welcome to come and participate starting at 8:00 a.m. Train rides will be available the entire day for those not operating.

For the picnic, please bring chips, finger food, desserts and dips. Division 8 will furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks.

See you in Minneapolis for the National Narrow Gauge Convention. Remember the mosquitoes are bigger in Minnesota.

Nominations

by Blake Bogs
superchief15@yahoo.com

Howdy y'all!

I need to start out by thanking Chuck Lind for giving me the honor of the LSR President's award. Receiving this award was an extreme shock and means more than anyone will ever know. I am extremely grateful to Chuck for giving me the honor of the being the recipient of this award.

Let's cover some of the fun stuff going on throughout the region.

The Lone Star Region 2018 Austin Eagle Convention has come and gone. If you missed it, you missed a great one because Austin went all out. I was able to make it to operate on Edmar Wienskoski's Layout on Wednesday night, made it to a total of 12 amazing clinics, visited 10 layouts, had four entries in the contest room that did extremely well, and ended it all with an amazing banquet with fellowship from some of the best people you can imagine.

I'd just like to extend a massive thank you to Peter and all of the crew for hosting another amazing convention. The folks up in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area are already getting ready for Frisco in 2019, so if you haven't already considered it, plan to attend!

If you haven't been to Petticoat recently, you're missing out. We had been averaging around 50 people per meeting, but we had a record 54 people at the club in June, with Jim Brandenburg giving a wonderful presentation on his outdoor layout that was taken out a few years ago. In July, we beat surpassed our record! We had 56 people! Beating our average record not once, but twice, was a shock to me. To recap, Denny McGonigle did the clinic on his layout in July, then in August Edward Flaugher did the clinic on painting brass locomotives.

A few of the upcoming clinics are as follows:

September 7th : All Points North- History and Overview of the All Points North Layout

October 5th : Barry Bogs- 30 years of the Colorado and Western Railroad

November 2nd : Open House

December 7th: Eddie Carroll- History and Overview of the Glenbrook and Western

I've said this so many times, but when I started as coordinator 5 years ago, we only had 14-16 people. I make this point repeatedly because it shows model railroading is not dead. With a little work, monthly clinics, and email reminders, attendance will grow. I need to thank two people in particular. Firstly, Jim Brandenburg does a lot for the group and helps with coordinating our meeting space at Valley Ranch BBQ. I also need to thank my girlfriend, Megan for helping with a lot behind the scenes and emails that go out. If you're ever in the Spring area on the first Friday of the month, please come join us! To note just once more, we meet the first Friday of the month at Valley Ranch BBQ and we would love for you to come join in fellowship with us.

In July, I went to the official opening of Mr. Dave's "Golden ~ Blackhawk & Central City". It's amazing how much work has gone into the layout since it was first announced that he was going to permanently put the layout in the depot. Mr. Dave layout spent approximately 17 years traveling around the United States with this layout, where he won many awards. Just recently, Mr. Dave and the entire crew of the Golden ~ Blackhawk & Central City received the 2018 NMRA President's award. Congratulations Mr. Dave! No one is more deserving than you!

One last personal note, I made the decision that within the next year the current Wolf Creek and Santa Fe will officially be taken apart. Since I'm switching to O/On3 scale, the HO/HOn3 layout is not being used much. I already started planning a new track plan. It will be pretty basic compared to my old layout, but it will hopefully be a lot more user friendly than my current track plan.

Well, let me finish this article with my usual pitch. We need help! The 2019 LSR election is around the corner! The positions open are President, Treasurer, Division 1 Director, Division 3 Director, Division 5 Director, and Division 7 Director.

The nomination period is October 1, 2018 through December 1, 2018. Don't miss out! If you have any questions, I'm always available! Email me at: superchief1520@gmail.com or call/text me at 713-254-7447! I will do my best to reply to you within 48 hours!

Until next time, keep them trains running!

Treasurer Report

by Speed Muller, Treasurer
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com
469-345-0022

For the Fiscal Year of 2017/2018

Beginning Balance 05/01/2017		
LSR Checking Account		$29,798.92
Morgan Stanley CD Fund		$ 9,875.17
Beginning LSR Funds		$39,674.09
Beginning Liabilities (#1)		$ 855.00
Total LSR Net Worth	(A)	$38,819.09

(#1 Liabilities include Funds for the Bob Clark Award: $570, Divisions 2,5,6,and 7 Rebate Funds: 285; $855.00)

LSR Proceeds	
Morgan Stanley CD Fund Interest	$ 93.31
Morgan Stanley Fee error corrected	$ 150.00
Amazon Smile	$ 5.00
Marker Lamp Dealer Ads	$ 40.00
Marker Lamp Pike Ads	$ 112.00
Convention proceeds	$ 226.00
Delattre donation	$ 1,500.00
NMRA Region Rebate	$ 1,848.00
Total Proceeds (B)	$ 3,974.00

LSR Disbursements	
Youth membership awards	$ 221.00
Election Printing and Mailing	$ 86.01
BOD Meeting Expenses	$ 81.39
NMRA rebate to divisions	$ 1,149.00
Convention Non-rail Expenses	$ 214.69
Contest Room Expenses	$ 382.77
Historian Expenses	$ 38.97
Website Expenses	$ 50.52
Banking Costs (Checks)	$ 26.00
Memorial Donations	$ 75.00
Payout for Restricted Rebate Funds	$ 96.50
Payout for Bob Clark Fund	$ 41.14
Payout for Restricted Delattre Fund	$ 300.00
Total Disbursements (C)	$ 2,762.99
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements (B-C)	$ 1,211.32
Reduction in Liabilities	$ 437.64
Increase in Liabilities	$ 1,624.00
Change in Liabilities (D)	$ 1,186.36

Ending Balance 4/30/2018	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	$40,885.41
Morgan Stanley CD fund	$ 0.00
LSR Funds	$40,885.41
Liabilities (#2)	$ 2,041.36
Total LSR Net Worth	$38,844.05
(Check: E = A + B – C – D	$38,844.05)

(#2 Liabilities include: Funds for the Bob Clark Award: $528.86, DeLattre Fund: $1,200.00, Divisions 2 and 7 Rebate Funds: $312.50; $2,041.36)

Achievement Program

By Duane Richardson, MMR
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

To align with the printing deadline of the NMRA Magazine, National has changed the deadline for Achievement Program paperwork submissions. The deadline is now the 21st of each month.

This moves the LSR deadline to the 19th to give me time to process the paperwork, scan it and get it sent to National. Division Directors, please pass this information along to your members and let them know.

Also, let them know if they have some paperwork that may need an extra day have them contact me and I'll work with them to get them in before the deadline.

Youth Awards

by Jim Lemond, Youth Award Chair
jimlem@verzion.net

2019 Youth Award Nominations

It's time to be considering a youth for your Division's Youth Award Nominee Each Division may submit one nomination for this award. The qualifications are as follows:

1. Be a student. Anyone under the age of 18 qualifies if they are not already an NMRA member. The NMRA has also made arrangements to allow college students under the age of 25 to qualify as a STUDENT. They must have a CURRENT student ID to the school they are attending – include a photocopy of the ID.

2. Be sponsored by a current NMRA member. The Division Director must approve

3. Be presented by the Division Director at the Annual BOD meeting – one sponsorship per year.

4. LSR Board of Directors approval

Important dates:

December 15, 2018 – LSR Youth Nomination form and student biography emailed or sent to Jim Lemmond jimlem@comcast.net or 2821 Frostwood Circle, Dickinson, Texas 77539. I will then send all nominations to the LSR Secretary, Jeff Palmer by January 5, 2019. All nominations will be submitted to the LSR Board of Directors for approval at the mid-year Board meeting in January 2019. All approved nominees will be invited to attend the LSR June Convention banquet to receive their award.

The information and forms for this award may be downloaded from the LSR web site: http://www.lonestarregion.com/node/49

LSR's goal is to have a Youth Award from each Division of the LSR.

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Cowcatcher
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March/April 2014
Getting the right shot
With digital photography, layout photos are easier to shoot but knowing the basics are still just as essential
SGMA-MAC makes an impression
Texas Central aims to be first high-speed rail in U.S.

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